

Appl. No. : 10/800,224
Filed : March 12, 2004

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 30, 2004.

By that Action, the Examiner first rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112(2) for lacking antecedent basis for the limitation "said head extends," and because the term "generally perpendicular" is a relative term. Applicants have amended Claim 6 to recite "the prong extends" (referring to the prong defined in Claim 5), and has removed the term "generally," and believes that Claim 6 is now in compliance with Section 112.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Marinescu (USPN 5,317,939), and rejected Claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marinescu in view of Lodin (USPN 4,852,925).

Applicants assert that independent Claims 1 and 13 recite patentable subject-matter. Claims 1 and 13 both recite a bulb-removing tool having a compressible insert located in an opening defined by movable tines, and a sleeve or slider movable to press the tines inwardly, thus compressing the insert into engagement with a bulb which is positioned in the insert. Applicants note that Marinescu does not disclose such a configuration. Marinescu discloses a light bulb changing device in which a finger clamp assembly directly engages a light bulb.

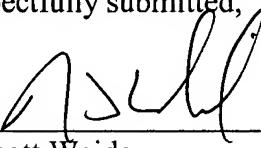
Claim 13 further discloses a stop at least partially located in a bulb-accepting opening of the compressible insert, the stop limiting the depth a bulb may be inserted into the insert. Applicants assert that the prior art, including Marinescu, does not disclose such a configuration.

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Applicants assert that Claims 2-12 and 14-17 are allowable for at least the reason they depend from an allowable independent claim. In addition, however, these claims are believed to independently define patentable subject-matter. For example, Claims 9-12 are all directed to configurations of the compressible bulb-accepting insert and a stop, both of which, as detailed above, are not disclosed in the prior art.

Applicants assert that Claims 1-17 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice as to the same. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 23, 2004 By: 

R. Scott Weide
Registration No. 37,755
Weide & Miller, Ltd.
Bank West Building, 5th Floor
7251 West Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 530
Las Vegas, NV 89128
(702) 382-4804 (Pacific time)